

Appln No. 10/621,988
Am dt date October 23, 2006
Reply to Office action of June 21, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-16 remain pending in this application, with claims 17-45 withdrawn from consideration. Applicant has amended claim 1. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims and drawings. No new matter is presented. Applicant submit that all of pending claims 1-16 are in condition for allowance, and therefore respectfully requests a timely indication of allowance.

In the Office action dated June 21, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Maguire, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,953,460) in view of Panescu, et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0078509). However, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite that the transducer has "a front surface and an opposing back surface, wherein the back surface of the transducer is mounted to the distal end of the catheter body." Neither Maguire nor Panescu teach or suggest such a feature. Rather, Maguire discloses a *circumferential* ablation element which can include an ultrasound transducer. However, the circumferential ablation element of Maguire does not include an opposing back surface mounted to the distal end of the catheter body, as recited in amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 1, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-16, are allowable over Maguire and Panescu.

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In light of the above remarks, Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-16 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests a timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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